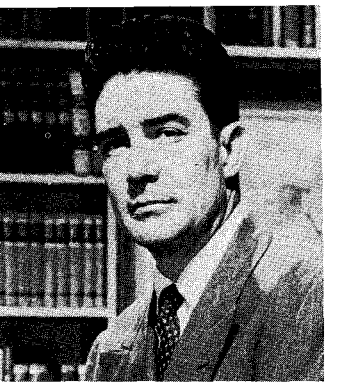
THE
Dan Smoot Report

Vol. 9, No. 49 (Broadcast 434) December 9, 1963 Dallas, Texas



DAN SMOOT

A STRANGER IN THEIR MIDST

President John F. Kennedy was murdered by a communist in Dallas. Dallasites, both liberal and conservative, were more completely thunderstruck by the crime than any other people in the world, because many were actual eyewitnesses; all had a feeling of closeness to the deed. Yet, all over the world, Dallasites were accused of hate-mongering fanaticism, of having molded the twisted mind of Lee Harvey Oswald, a stranger in their midst.

Lee Harvey Oswald was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, October 18, 1939. His father died before he was born. His mother works as a practical nurse.[1]

A part of his boyhood was spent in Fort Worth, Texas, where he went to public schools. In 1953, he and his mother moved to New York. Oswald attended a junior high school in the Bronx for a few weeks. He was arrested for truancy and given a psychiatric examination. Psychiatrists recommended that he be committed, saying he was a potentially dangerous schizophrenic. He was not committed. He and his mother also lived briefly in North Dakota.

Oswald said he became interested in marxism when he was 15, after reading a pamphlet about Julius and Ethel Rosenberg (American communists, executed as spies).

In 1956, at the age of 17, Oswald enrolled as a freshman in Arlington Heights High School, Fort Worth. He dropped out after 23 days, and joined the Marine Corps. In boot camp, he qualified as sharpshooter on the rifle range; but he never adjusted to life in the Marines, as he never adjusted to life anywhere else. He was forever in trouble. He served in the Philippines and in Japan as a radar operator, with the rank of Private First Class. He was twice court-martialed while in Japan: the first time for carrying an unregistered pistol; the second time, for swearing at a non-commissioned officer.

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT, a magazine published every week by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., mailing address P. O. Box 9538, Lakewood Station, Dallas, Texas 75214; Telephone TAylor 1-2303 (office address 6441 Gaston Avenue). Subscription rates: $10.00 a year, $6.00 for 6 months, $18.00 for two years. For first class mail $12.50 a year; by airmail (including APO and FPO) $14.50 a year. Reprints of specific issues: 1 copy for 25¢; 6 for $1.00; 50 for $5.50; 100 for $10.00 — each price for bulk mailing to one person. Add 2% sales tax on all orders originating in Texas for Texas delivery.

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Claiming that his mother was ill and needed his help, he applied for, and received, a hardship discharge from the Marines in September, 1959, and was assigned to the Marine Corps inactive Reserve; but instead of going home to his mother, he boarded a ship for the Soviet Union, with $1600 he had somehow acquired. This was a move he had been preparing for during his last two years in the Marines. He arrived in Moscow on October 15, 1959, and told American reporters there that it was like getting out of prison. Soon after his arrival, he petitioned the Supreme Soviet for Soviet citizenship.

Although Russian officials warned him that Soviet citizenship was not easy to obtain, Oswald referred to the Soviet government as "my government" and said "even if I am not accepted, on no account will I go back to the United States."[2]

On October 30, 1959, he went to the American Embassy in Moscow to renounce his American citizenship. He told officials he was a marxist.[1]

On November 2, 1959, Oswald formally asked the U. S. Government to revoke his citizenship. He signed an affidavit stating:

"I affirm that my allegiance is to the Soviet Socialist Republic."[3]

Oswald was bitter because the United States Consul in Moscow suggested that he "think over" his decision to take an oath renouncing American citizenship. He turned in his passport to Embassy officials and left, saying he would let the Soviet government handle legal details when, and if, he became a citizen of the Soviet Union.

Upon hearing of Oswald's defection, the Marine Corps gave him an undesirable discharge from the Marine Reserve. When word of this reached Oswald in Russia, he wrote a letter to John Connally, Secretary of the Navy, saying:

"I shall employ all means to right this gross mistake or injustice to a bonafide U. S. citizen and ex-serviceman."[4]

Connally, who had just resigned to run for Governor of Texas, turned Oswald's letter over to his successor, Fred Korth; and no action was taken.

In April, 1961, Oswald met Marina Nicholaevna Proosakova, a hospital worker in Minsk. After six weeks, they were married in a state ceremony.

In January, 1962, Oswald, still in Minsk, wrote Senator John G. Tower (Republican, Texas), claiming that he, a United States citizen, was being held in Russia against his will, and asking Tower to intercede. Tower did not intercede. He merely sent Oswald's letter to the State Department.

In February, 1962, Oswald wrote the U. S. Embassy in Moscow, asking for a passport to return to the United States: Russian authorities had not accepted his request for citizenship, and Oswald refused to stay in the Soviet Union as a resident alien.

For reasons not yet made public, the U. S. Embassy in Moscow (acting on orders from the State Department) on May 24, 1962, renewed Oswald's passport, and amended it to include an infant daughter (born in February of that year); gave Oswald's Russian wife a non-quota visa to enter the United States; and advanced Oswald $435.71 for travel expenses back to America.[5]

Oswald and his family arrived in the United States at the Port of New York on June 13, 1962.[5] During the late summer of 1962, he allegedly was in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, calling on non-communist refugees, seeking their help in finding employment. None would have anything to do with him, because they feared him as a dedicated communist. They feared that Oswald was trying to get information about them for the Soviet secret police — which is known to operate in the United States, under United Nations cover.[6]

Early in 1963, Oswald was in New Orleans, where he became active (under the name of A. J. Hidell) in the Fair Play For Cuba Committee. This organization was founded in New York in 1960 to support Fidel Castro. According to the

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Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, formation of the organization was financed by money from the Cuban mission to the United Nations.[7]

During this period (early 1963), Oswald wrote the State Department applying for another passport, saying he wanted to visit England, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Poland, and Russia. The new passport was issued to Oswald at New Orleans on June 25, 1963.[1]

Carlos Bringuier, a Cuban anti-Castro patriot, told Associated Press reporters that Oswald had attempted to infiltrate a Cuban anti-Castro organization, by offering himself (as a former Marine) to train Cubans for an invasion of the island. Bringuier said:

"I was suspicious of him from the start . . . . Then a few days later, I encountered him on Canal Street distributing 'Viva Castro' literature. We took all his propaganda away from him. Then the police came and arrested a lot of us . . . . The charges against all of us but Oswald were dismissed."[1]

Oswald was fined $10 for disturbing the peace, and released.[1]

On August 21, 1963 (shortly after his arrest in the street fight) Oswald appeared as a guest on a New Orleans radio program — known as "Conversation Carte Blanche," station WDSU. During the broadcast, Oswald identified himself as a marxist.

The Cuban Student Directorate in Miami reports that Oswald was President of the New Orleans Fair Play For Cuba Committee, and that the national organization transferred him from New Orleans to Dallas, late in August, 1963, following his interview on the radio program.[1]

The exact time of Oswald's move from New Orleans to Dallas is not generally known. Mrs. Ruth Paine, of Irving, Texas (who had met the Oswalds in Dallas), somehow heard that Mrs. Oswald was destitute in New Orleans, with one small child, expecting another. Mrs. Paine says that, while driving back to Dallas after a vacation in the East, she stopped off in New Orleans to see Mrs. Oswald. On September 23, 1963, she brought Oswald's wife and child to her home in Irving. Mrs. Paine, formerly a Russian language teacher, said she thought she and Mrs. Oswald could help each other.

On September 26, 1963, *The Dallas Morning News* published an article on William J. Lowery, a Dallas salesman who had been operating as an undercover informant for the FBI on communist activities. Lowery said the communist party, concentrating recruiting efforts on college students, minority groups, and labor unions, has had a great deal of success and is growing in Texas.

On September 26, 1963, Dallas newspapers also publicized President Kennedy's scheduled visit to Dallas in November. On that same day, Oswald crossed the border into Mexico at Nuevo Laredo. On September 27, he talked with the Cuban consul at Mexico City, requesting a visa for travel to the Soviet Union, via Cuba. When told that he must wait about three weeks for clearance from the Cuban foreign ministry, Oswald left in anger. On September 28, he visited the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City requesting the visa, identifying himself as "a militant communist, married with a Soviet citizen," and saying that he had resided three years in the Soviet Union. When told that he must wait for clearance from the Soviet foreign ministry, Oswald left — again in anger.

Oswald arrived in Dallas from Mexico on October 4, and stayed at the YMCA. On October 14, 1963, in the middle of the night (using the alias, O. H. Lee), he rented a room at 1026 North Beckley Avenue, for $8.00 a week. This rooming house is less than a mile west of the Texas School Book Depository firm (Elm and Houston Streets, on the edge of downtown Dallas) where Oswald got a job, as stock clerk, on October 15, 1963.

The fact that Oswald, on October 15, got a job in a building that was on President Kennedy's

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parade route six weeks later has given rise to much speculation; but it may have been an accident of fate. The public did not know that the presidential parade would pass the corner of Elm and Houston until November 16, 1963. An exact map of the route was published on November 21, the day before the visit.

R. S. Truly, superintendent of the book depository firm, later said of Oswald:

"He was a pretty quiet individual. His work was fine and I had no reason to believe . . . no idea the man had ever been in Russia."

There have been persistent reports that the FBI knew all about Lee Harvey Oswald's background, knew where his wife resided in Irving, and knew where he worked in Dallas. In this regard, the only thing which the public knows as a certainty is that the Dallas police did not know of communist Oswald's employment in a building on the presidential parade route — or even of his presence in Dallas. According to reports, the police did have, however, a list of persons branded as "extreme rightists," who were to be kept under surveillance during the President's visit.

After Oswald's arrest, police and sheriff's deputies found among his effects five or six metal files containing notes and correspondence. They also found $150.00, although Oswald earned only $1.25 an hour at the book depository. The Oswald files were all given to the FBI, and the public does not know what they contained. Police surmise, however, that they contained a wealth of information about the man's communist activities — and possibly about his contacts, and the source of his money.

Assistant District Attorney William F. Alexander has revealed that some of the correspondence found in Oswald's effects consisted of letters from leaders of the communist party of the United States, thanking Oswald for his activities. Other letters were from the Fair Play For Cuba Committee, thanking Oswald for past services, giving him suggestions about organizing chapters of that organization.

During the 48-hour period between Oswald's arrest on November 22 and his murder on November 24, he not only admitted, but arrogantly boasted to police, that he was a "marxist."

The Haters

Most of the information about Oswald's communist activities (summarized above) was publicized within a few hours after his arrest; but this did not seem to matter to liberals and self-styled "moderates" (in Dallas and elsewhere), who, for many days, poured out an incredible volume of hate, not against communists, but against constitutional conservatives — calling them "right-wing extremists," "bigots," "right-wing fanatics."

Immediately after the President's assassination, the Voice of America (U.S. Government overseas broadcasting agency) notified the world that the President had been killed in Dallas, "center of the extreme right-wing movement." This official broadcast of the U.S. Government was taken overseas, of course, to mean that American anti-communist conservatives are anarchists and assassins, that Dallas is a hotbed of such people, and that the U.S. Government presumed them guilty of murdering the President.[8]

As soon as Oswald was arrested and identified, VOA deleted, from its overseas broadcast, reference to right-wing extremists in Dallas, but was careful *not* to mention that the arrested assassin was an admitted communist. It was approximately 12 hours after Oswald's arrest before VOA told the world that the man was a "marxist."[8]

When asked to explain, Mr. Henry Loomis, Director of Voice of America, defended the original branding of Dallas as a "center of the extreme right-wing movement" by saying:

"It was a fact. Tass [Soviet news agency] knew this beforehand . . . . Things were running in circles."[8]

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Concerning VOA's 12-hour delay in broadcasting the *known fact* that the assassin was an admitted communist, Mr. Loomis said:

"We bend over backward to be careful."[8]

United States Representative Harry R. Sheppard (Democrat, California) described his first reaction to the news of the President's assassination:

"The first impression I had — a hasty one at that — was that I had never liked the tenor of the so-called Dan Smoot writings of that area. He's an extremist whose writings are not only flamboyant, but are inclined to be of a violent nature and inclined toward character assassination.

"Further, in that general area you have a considerable grouping of a so-called Welch crowd. It has been apparent that it is a very inflammable area . . . . Be it right or wrong, that was my first basic thinking . . . ."[9]

On November 24, 1963, *The Daily Sentinel,* Grand Junction, Colorado, editorialized on the assassination, without mentioning the name of the assassin or even hinting that he was a communist. *The Daily Sentinel* put all the blame on Dallas conservatives:

"It is not surprising that the assassination took place in a city where . . . . the heat of hatred and vilification has run so high that special security precautions were necessary."

Others vaguely included communists in their denunciation of Dallas by saying that both the "extreme left" and the "extreme right" were responsible; but they concentrated their hatred on the "extreme right" — seeming to equate criticism of the fallen President with treason and homicidal tendencies.

Perhaps the most regrettable remarks were made by the Reverend William A. Holmes, pastor of the Northaven Methodist Church in Dallas. Mr. Holmes spoke on a national CBS television program on November 26, 1963, alleging that children in Dallas schools cheered when they heard of the President's assassination. Mr. Holmes' point was that these children were from the families of political conservatives who had taught their youngsters to hate the leaders of our nation. Many persons who watched the broadcast felt that Mr. Holmes himself oozed hatred while denouncing the alleged "rightist" haters of Dallas.

In one Dallas suburban grade school, the principal was so shaken by the news of the President's assassination, that he sent children home without telling them why. A few children left, shouting gleefully, "We are free!" But no Dallas school children cheered the death of President Kennedy. There was no accuracy in Mr. Holmes' story. Nonetheless, Methodist preachers of Dallas, at a hastily-convened conference on November 29, formally adopted a resolution expressing "whole-heartedly our defense of our brother William A. Holmes' right and every other minister's right to the freedom of the pulpit to declare the mind and spirit of Christ in every area of human life."[10]

As if anyone had even hinted that a preacher should be denied freedom to declare the mind and spirit of Christ!

Mr. Holmes might have expressed sorrow over the fact that public school officials could not, in the hour of national shock and sorrow, call children together for prayer, because the Supreme Court has outlawed such prayer in our public schools. Mr. Holmes did not do that. He, and many others like him, chose, rather, to deliver tirades about political conservatives.

Following the murder of Oswald, K. W. Cornell, Associated Press staff writer, wrote an article for *The Dallas Times Herald* (Monday, November 25, 1963) based on interviews with numerous clergymen. Here is a sentence from the lead paragraph:

"But the nation's moral leaders said this killing, like the assassination of the President, reflected a blight in the temper of the people."

Oswald was a psychotic misanthrope. He mirrored the hate and lawless violence characteristic of communism; but it is an insult to the United States to say that he in any way, or to any degree, reflected the "temper of the people."

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Constitutional Conservatives

Dallas conservatism does not represent any special group. It is a product of individual taste and breeding. It is a way of life, a spirit, a faith. It is a conviction which neither springs from bigotry nor produces it. It is the progeny of American heritage. The strength of conservative conviction in Dallas is nourished by roots planted in the Texas frontier. In that sense, we are unique; but in a larger sense, constitutional conservatives of Dallas are like constitutional conservatives everywhere else in America: they revere the Founding Fathers of this nation and want to re-establish the constitutional system which they created.

The War for American Independence (which the Founding Fathers led to a successful conclusion) was unlike any other so-called revolution in history. The French Revolution of the 18th Century was conceived in hate and executed in violence. Its purpose was the same as that of the bolshevik revolution in 20th-century Russia: to overturn and destroy the existing order of things and to murder the existing leaders of society. The American Revolution was not tinged with such purpose. The Founding Fathers, in rebelling against England, were resisting political tyranny — *to preserve and improve* the existing order.

They feared concentration of political power, and they feared anarchy. Out of their wisdom and their fears, their experience and their great learning, they created the most marvelous governmental system ever conceived in the minds of men. Believing in government by law, and not government by the whims of men, they wrote the Constitution which was a binding contract — not only upon government but upon the people as well. By restricting government to the exercise of specifically-granted powers, the Constitution was intended to prohibit government officials from usurping power and thus becoming lawless tyrants, under pretext of helping the people. Ultimate power to change the organic structure of government was left in the hands of the people; but the means of making such change (amending the Constitution) was carefully prescribed to militate against hasty, unwise decisions by the people. This system, unique in history, was designed to prevent both tyranny by government, and reckless rebellion by the people.

For 30 years, American liberals have supported *lawless government* — government not bound by the specific terms of the Constitution, but usurping power to do anything which officialdom claims will promote the general welfare. Constitutional conservatives resist lawless government, because they know it produces a lawless society. The end is either wild anarchy or oppressive dictatorship. The fervor and dedication of constitutional conservatives stems not from hate, but from a sense of urgency: they want to restore *lawful* constitutional government, by *lawful* means, before it is too late.

The Harvest?

The current furor of liberal hatred for conservatives may conceal a sense of guilt. The warped mind of Lee Harvey Oswald was first attracted to communism by communist propaganda leaflets. Conservatives abhor governmental censorship (even of communist propaganda) which violates constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Conservatives also abhor the distribution of communist propaganda in the United States at taxpayers' expense. Liberalism, however, decrees that communist propaganda must be distributed in the United States, without restriction, at the expense of the American people.[11]

Constitutional conservatives do not believe in violating the constitutional rights of anyone, not even of communists; but they have for years contended that communists should not be given preferential treatment. Conservatives have been particularly concerned about State Department softness toward communism. What else, but this liberal attitude of special friendliness toward com-

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munists, could have prompted the State Department to renew Oswald's passport and pay his way back to the United States, after he had renounced American citizenship — and then, a year later, grant him another passport to go to the Soviet Union?

During the last three years, virtually all liberal spokesmen in the United States berate "extreme-rightists" for asserting that communism is dangerous in the United States. The liberal line is that communists are *not* dangerous — that, indeed, "right-wing extremists" are far more harmful than communists.

Could that explain why Dallas police had a list of so-called "rightists" to watch but were not told that a known communist, an expert rifleman, worked in a building on the presidential parade route?

As pointed out before, the public does not know what the FBI knew, or had done, about Oswald. Oswald loudly proclaimed his hatred of the United States, and boasted of his communist activities. Hence, if the FBI did *not* know where he lived and worked from October 15 to November 22, this fact alone must reflect the attitude of Robert Kennedy, Attorney General of the United States. Note a United Press International dispatch from Washington, published March 7, 1962, under the headline "U. S. Reds Harmless Says Bob Kennedy." Here are passages from the article:

"Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy said yesterday the U. S. Communist party is a 'windmill' virtually powerless to hurt the government. He criticized 'hysteria' about the party's activities. 'They can't do anything to us' . . . the President's brother said."

All FBI reports go to the Attorney General, who is above the FBI Director, in the chain of command. If the FBI *did* report that communist Oswald was working in a building overlooking the presidential parade route in Dallas, why did Attorney General Robert Kennedy not do something about it? Because only "right-wing extremists" are considered dangerous?

One sentence in a letter from a subscriber to this *Report* sums up a lot:

"If our leaders had fought communism instead of McCarthyism, there would have been no Castro in Cuba, and no castroite Oswald in the United States to murder President Kennedy."

Cover Up?

On November 26, 1963, President Johnson ordered the FBI to take charge of all evidence and to make a thorough investigation of the assassination, and of the subsequent murder of the assassin. He promised that FBI reports would be made public immediately.

On the same day—November 26—*The Worker* (communist party newspaper), in a long editorial praising the policies of the late President Kennedy and placing blame for his death on the "ultra-right," recommended that President Johnson appoint a special commission, under Chief Justice Earl Warren, to conduct the investigation

Three days later—November 29—President Johnson appointed a special 7-man commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, to investigate the assassination and the murder of Oswald. The other six men on the commission:

Allen W. Dulles, former President of the Council on Foreign Relations and a director of the CFR since 1927; Representative Hale Boggs (liberal Democrat, Louisiana); Representative Gerald R. Ford (liberal Republican, Michigan); Senator John Sherman Cooper (liberal Republican, Kentucky); John J. McCloy, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Council on Foreign Relations since 1953, former Disarmament

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Agency head; Senator Richard B. Russell (Democrat, Georgia), the only one of the group with perceptible conservative tendencies.

On December 2, 1963, a story in *The Dallas Morning News* revealed that the FBI reports will not be made public, as President Johnson had first promised. All investigative reports will be turned over to Warren's commission—which will "evaluate and report to the public."

Will the public ever get the full, true story?

Motives

As reported last week, circumstances gave rise to the presumption that Jack Rubenstein and Oswald were involved together, with others unknown, in a plot to assassinate President Kennedy, and that Rubenstein murdered Oswald to silence him. Indications now are that this presumption may never be proved. History *may* record that the assassination and the murder were isolated acts of psychotics, with no calculated motives or purpose.

FOOTNOTES

(1) *The Dallas Morning News,* November 23, 1963, Section 1, p. 6

(2) *The Dallas Morning News,* November 24, 1963, Section 1, p. 3

(3) *The Dallas Times Herald,* November 23, 1963, p. 6A

(4) *Time,* Vol. 82, No. 22, November 29, 1963, p. 27

(5) UPI story from Moscow, *The Dallas Morning News,* December 2, 1963, Section 1, p. 5

(6) "A Variety of Red Spy Networks Cover U.S.," by Henry J. Taylor, *The Los Angeles Times,* October 12, 1962; *The Episode of the Russian Seamen,* Report of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, May 12, 1956, 21 pp.

(7) *Fair Play For Cuba Committee,* Hearings before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, February 27, 1961, 128 pp.

(8) "In the Nation: The Modern Miracle and the Ancient Curse," by Arthur Krock, *The New York Times,* November 26, 1963, p. 36; "Broadcast to World: Voice of America Explains 'Far Right' Tag," by John Mashek, *The Dallas Morning News,* November 28, 1963, Section 1, p. 5

(9) "Rep. Sheppard Shocked At Death of President," *The San Bernardino Daily Sun,* November 23, 1963, p. A-2

(10) "Methodists Back 'Freedom of Pulpit,'" *The Dallas Morning News,* November 30, 1963, Section 1, p. 6

(11) For a detailed discussion of communist propaganda distribution through American mail, see this *Report,* "We Pay For Communist Propaganda," May 28, 1962.

WHO IS DAN SMOOT?

Born in Missouri, reared in Texas, Dan Smoot went to SMU in Dallas, getting BA and MA degrees in 1938 and 1940. In 1941, he joined the faculty at Harvard as a Teaching Fellow in English, doing graduate work for a doctorate in American Civilization.

In 1942, he left Harvard and joined the FBI. As an FBI Agent, he worked for three and a half years on communist investigations in the industrial Midwest; two years on FBI headquarters staff in Washington; and almost four years on general FBI cases in various parts of the nation.

In 1951, Smoot resigned from the FBI and helped start Facts Forum. On Facts Forum radio and television programs, Smoot spoke to a national audience, giving *both* sides of controversial issues.

In July, 1955, he resigned and started his present independent publishing and broadcasting business — a free-enterprise operation financed entirely by profits from sales: sales of *The Dan Smoot Report,* a weekly magazine; and sales of a weekly news-analysis broadcast, to business firms, for use on radio and television as an advertising vehicle. The *Report* and the broadcast give only *one* side in presenting documented truth about important issues — the side that uses the American Constitution as a yardstick. The *Report* is available by subscription; and the broadcasts are available for commercial sponsorship, anywhere in the United States.

If you think Dan Smoot is providing effective tools for Americans fighting socialism and communism, you can help immensely — by helping him get more customers for his *Report* and broadcasts.

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